

One Ministry of the Word: *Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch*

Acts 8:25-40

Introduction

Persecution drove Philip to Samaria. But it was divine intervention that sent him on to the Gentiles.

The Four Major Components of True Salvation

- I. A True Sovereign Spirit (vv26, 29, 39);
- II. A True Servant (vv25-27a; 29-30, 35, 38);
- III. A True Seeker (vv27b-28; 31-34);
- IV. A True Sign of Submission (vv36-40);

I. A True Sovereign Spirit (vv26, 29, 39)

“They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one” Psalm 14:1-3

God chooses, God calls, God regenerates, God justifies, God sanctifies, God glorifies every true believer.

1. The Spirit

The Scripture gives us ample information about how man, fallen in sin, dead and blind spiritually, receives new life in Christ.

- 1) The Spirit regenerates the dead heart of stone (Titus 3:5; cp Ezekiel 36:26-27)
- 2) The Spirit causes a rebirth of the soul from above (John 3:3)

2. The Scripture

God uses His Word and His Spirit to bring about salvation (Romans 10:5-11; 17).

- 1) It is the *omnipotent* Word of God that retains unlimited power to create (Psalm 33:6-9).
- 2) It is the “the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 1:23)
- 3) It is the divinely *inspired* Scripture that is “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- 4) It is the *living and active* Word of God that alone can penetrate the heart and bring understanding with perfect accuracy (Hebrews 4:12)

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.”

“O Lord, Thou didst strike my heart with Thy Word and I loved Thee” (Augustine; *Confessions*, X:8).

II. A True Servant (vv25-27a; 29-30, 35, 38)

Jesus is the True *Servant*

Philippians 2:7

Matthew 12:18

Philip – a Spirit-filled *Servant, Preacher, Evangelist*

Seekers must be able to correctly understand what they are reading in the Word of God. Nehemiah 8:1-8

A true servant of God is a faithful Spirit-filled minister of the Word of God.

1. through public preaching (read Romans 10:14-15)

“*testified*” ‘to bear witness’; ‘testify earnestly or repeatedly.’

“*spoken*” Gk *laleo*; to speak as opposed to speechlessness.

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit they began to *speak*.” Acts 2:4

“*preaching the gospel*” Gk *euangelizo*; ‘to announce, declare, or bring the good news.’

“Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.” Acts 8:4

2. through private counseling (Matt. 18:15; Gal. 6:1-2; 1 Thess. 5:11; Eph. 4:15)

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.” v35

Philip was a successful preacher *and* a faithful personal worker. He was a “servant” first and foremost.

This call to serve God in the full-orbed ministry of His Word is universal for *all* Christians.

Jesus left ninety-nine to save one (Luke 15:4).

Philip the servant of the Word, was available and willing.

The Eunuch was sincerely inquisitive and open. He was not ashamed to be baptized publicly at the moment of belief unto salvation.

III. A True Seeker (vv27b-28; 31-34)

God’s inclusion of people from east Africa:

“Nobles shall come from Egypt; Cush shall hasten to stretch out her hands to God.” Psalm 68:31

“From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, the daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering.” Zephaniah 3:10

Isaiah 18:7

God offers a promise of an inheritance for devout, God-fearing, God-seeking eunuchs (Isaiah 56:3-5).

A true seeker is one whose *heart is set to seek God*.

Jehu to Jehoshaphat: 2 Chronicles 19:3

Of Uzziah: “He set himself to seek God.” 2 Chronicles 26:5

David’s charge to the leaders of Israel: 1 Chronicles 22:19

Hezekiah’s prayer for the people: 2 Chron 30:18-20

2 Chronicles 31:21

“you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.” Deuteronomy 4:29

IV. A True Sign of Submission (vv36-40)

“And as they were going along the road they came to some water... ‘See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?’” v36

“Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart.” Psalm 119:2

Whether a *true servant* or a *true seeker*, it is submission to God’s Word with a joyful heart that marks the true believer.

These are the 4 major components of true salvation:

a sovereign God; a faithful servant of His Word; someone who sincerely seeks God; and the fruit of true salvation – submission to God and a heart that rejoices.

“You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13

“With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!” Psalm 119:10